

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and new Claims 9-36 have been added; therefore, Claims 9-36 are pending. Applicant has carefully considered the application in view of the Examiner's action and, in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, respectfully requests reconsideration and full allowance of all pending claims.

In accordance with the Examiner's request, each line of all pending claims are numbered, beginning with each claim.

Claims 2 and 8 stand rejected under 35 USC 112. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Feit (US Pat. No. 6,178,439 B1, hereinafter "Feit"). Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Feit. Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Feit in view of Caronni et al. (US Pat. No. 6,195,751 B1). In response, Applicant has cancelled Claims 1-8, without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering the rejections thereof moot.

Applicant has reviewed the prior art made of record and not relied upon, and has concluded that this art does not prejudice the patentability of the invention as defined by the present claims. For this reason, and the reason that they have not been applied against Applicant's claims, no further discussion of them is deemed necessary.

Applicant has added new Claims 9-36, which are supported by the application as originally filed (see *e.g.*, FIGS. 1-6), and add no new matter to the application as originally filed.

By this amendment, Claims 1-8 have been deleted, and new Claims 9-36 have been added, resulting in a total of 28 claims, 2 of which are independent claims. Accordingly, a check in the amount of \$144.00 for the 37 C.F.R. § 1.16(c) fee for adding 8 dependent claims in excess of 20 is submitted herewith.

Applicant does not believe any other fees are due; however, in the event that any other fees are due, or that the aforementioned check is absent, insufficient, or unacceptable, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees due

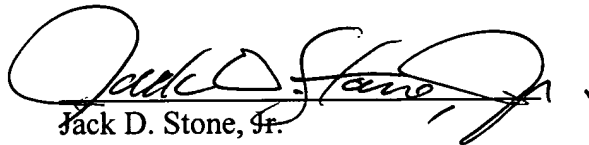
(other than issue fees), and to credit any overpayment made, in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-0605 of Carr & Storm, L.L.P.

Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this application in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of Claims 9-36.

Should the Examiner have any questions or desire clarification of any sort, or deem that any further amendment is desirable to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 13, 2001



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